

Media Concentration: reply to public comments

I am writing re Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. I believe that the FCC should retain the current media ownership rules and impose stricter public interest requirements.

If you allow our media outlets to merge print and broadcast facilities, you will create the conditions for a greater restriction on the breadth of news and information available to citizens. Democracy depends on an informed electorate -- informed about a diversity of views on questions of great moment. Allowing fewer and fewer media conglomerates to control more and more of the public media can only undermine the basis of our democratic tradition.

I strongly encourage the Commission to hold hearings in all parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions.

Thank you,

Thomas W. Devine